

CHARTS
FLOW PLANS

PAINT NUMBERED
TREES

PERMANENT
SAMPLES

TIMBER
BOOKKEEPING

UNIT
RECORDS

THE DIAMETER
TAPE

TRIAL
BALANCE

PORT-A-
PUNCH

FOREST CONTROL

A
132:
In 81
147

by CONTINUOUS INVENTORY

"Today I have grown taller from walking
with the trees."

...Karle Wilson

Upper Darby, Pa. January 1967 No. 147

LOG RULES 1966

Logs and sawlog stumpage are usually sold by board foot volume estimated according to a log scaling rule. Many States have chosen some particular log rule to be their standard measure for settling disputes in cases where no log rule has been agreed upon between the persons in the dispute, or for assessing penalties for timber trespass on State timber lands. Such laws or codes do not interfere with buyer and seller agreeing to use any log rule they wish. The current status of these State laws and codes, and of industry's preference for log

rules in the U.S.D.A., Forest Service Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry (same as Eastern Region, National Forest Administration) has recently been explored.

The most popular log rules in the eastern U.S.A. today are: the Doyle and Doyle-Scribner, used by many industries; the Scribner Decimal C, used by national forests in the Lake States and their neighboring industries; and the International 1/4 Inch, used by many state forestry organizations. A new comer is the Forest Service International 1/4 Inch Rule which is the decimalized International 1/4 Inch Rule used on timber sales on north eastern national forests since 1955, this new rule has moved into Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri national forests. It has all the convenience in use that made the Scribner Decimal C Rule popular and estimates volumes very close to mill tally for all sizes of logs. The Scribner Decimal C Rule underruns to some extent the actual board feet cut from small diameter logs.

A brief account of the northeastern log rule situation is attached.

W. W. Barton, Forester



Comments on Official State Log Scaling Rules for the Northeastern Area S&PF
(Compiled December 1966)

CONNECTICUT - International

International 1/4" Kerf Log Rule was adopted in 1941. It is described in Title 43, Weights and Measures, Chapter 752, Section 43-26 under the heading - Saw Logs.

McKusick comments - Saw logs within State are sold exclusively by International; Vermont and other rules are used for logs that move out of State for veneer and so forth.

DELAWARE - International

A timber trespass statute specifies values will be in International for calculating trespass volume. No rule established for timber sales.

State foresters use the International 1/4" Kerf Log Rule. Industry frequently uses the Doyle or the Doyle-Scribner.

ILLINOIS - None

There is no official log rule. The State foresters use the International 1/4" Kerf log rule for both cruising and marking. The U. S. Forest Service uses the International Decimal 1/4" Kerf Log Rule. The saw mill men use the Doyle rule and the two universities in Illinois apparently use some rule they have derived. Information on this derivation is lacking.

INDIANA - None

There is no official rule in Indiana. The Doyle rule is most commonly used. National Forests in Indiana use the International Decimal 1/4" Log Rule.

IOWA - Scribner Decimal C

Section 210.26 of the Iowa Code enacted in 1962, proclaims the Scribner Decimal C as the standard log rule which "shall be deemed" to have been used "unless some other method is specifically agreed upon."

Industry buyers of logs and stumpage usually use either the Doyle Log Rule or the combination Doyle-Scribner Log Rule.

MAINE - International

The official rule of the State of Maine is the International 1/4" Kerf Log Rule. This was established in 1965 when Title III of the revised statutes was amended by adding a new section 3662-A. The commonly used rule in Maine has been the Maine Log Rule or Holland Rule. This rule is very close to the International. National Forests in Maine use the International Decimal 1/4" Kerf Log Rule.

MARYLAND - None

There is no official log rule in Maryland. Most timber buyers use Doyle Rule.

MASSACHUSETTS - International

Chapter 145, the Acts of 1945, specify the International 1/4" Kerf Log Rule as the official rule of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. On the edges near Vermont and New Hampshire, the Vermont rule and New Hampshire rule (or Blodgett Caliper Rule) are occasionally used.

MICHIGAN - International

Act 208, 1941, page 315, establishes the International 1/4" Kerf Log Rule as the official State rule. Presumably the State forests use the International rule. The National Forests in Michigan presently use the Scribner Decimal C Log Rule. This rule is used by industry in the Upper Penninsula and the upper part of the Lower Penninsula. In the southern part of the Lower Penninsula industry uses the Doyle Rule.

MINNESOTA - Scribner Decimal C

The timber laws of Minnesota, Section VII, 91.09, (R. L. s. 2570) (6613), establishes Scribner's Decimal C Rule as the official log rule for the State of Minnesota. The Minnesota State and County forests use this rule. Presently the Forest Service uses this rule on National Forests. The Doyle Rule may be used in the extreme southern and southwestern part of the State.

MISSOURI - None

There is no official rule in the State of Missouri. On the State Forest the International 1/4" Log Rule is used and a few operators also use this rule. The National Forests in Missouri use the International Decimal 1/4" Kerf Log Rule. The Doyle Log Rule is most commonly used by industry.

NEW HAMPSHIRE - New Hampshire

Forest laws of New Hampshire list the New Hampshire rule as the official rule for the State. The International 1/4" Kerf Rule has gained considerable acceptance recently. The National Forests use the International Decimal 1/4" Log Rule.

NEW JERSEY - None

There is no official log rule in New Jersey. The Doyle Rule using average end diameter or middle diameter is the principal rule used in the State.

NEW YORK - International

Department of Agriculture and Markets, Circular 865 on page 16, number 193-C lists the International 1/4" Kerf Log Rule as official for the State. This rule is used on all State forests. The Doyle Rule is used in about 65% of all private timber sales. Other rules used by industry are the International 1/4, the Scribner Decimal C, the Vermont, and the Mid-Doyle.

OHIO - None

Ohio has no official log rule. The Division of Forestry and Reclamation uses the International 1/4" Kerf Log Rule. The National Forest uses the International Decimal 1/4" Kerf Log Rule. Most of Ohio industry uses the Doyle Rule.

PENNSYLVANIA - Scribner

Act of the General Assembly No. 205, 1953 establishes the Scribner Log Rule as a standard log rule for the State of Pennsylvania. The Department of Forests and Waters uses the International 1/4" Kerf Log Rule for timber sold from the State forest. The National Forest uses the International Decimal 1/4" Log Rule. Forest industries use three different log rules in the following order of total number of transactions: Doyle, Scribner, and International.

RHODE ISLAND - None

The "official" log rule used by Service Foresters is the International 1/4" Log Rule. This is the principal log rule used throughout the State.

VERMONT - International, or Vermont

Vermont Statutes Section 7738 establish two official rules. These are the International Log Rule as designated by the U. S. Forest Service for 1/4" Kerf and the Vermont Rule which for 12' logs is diameter inside the bark at the small end of the log x 1/2 this diameter which equals board feet. Both rules have been used by the Department of Forests and Parks. The National Forest in Vermont uses the International Decimal 1/4" Log Rule.

WEST VIRGINIA - Doyle Scribner

West Virginia code 1937 C. 47, Article I, Section 35 (S. 4540) establishes the Doyle and Scribner combined rule as official for the State. However, the straight Doyle rule appears to be almost universally used in West Virginia. The National Forests in West Virginia use the International Decimal 1/4" Kerf Log Rule.

WISCONSIN - None

There is no official rule in the State of Wisconsin. Timber sales on State and County forests are required to use the Scribner Decimal C Log Rule according to Section 28.11 (6) of the State statutes. National Forests presently use Scribner Decimal C Log Rule. The Doyle rule is used for walnut logs and perhaps other species in the southern and southwestern part of the State.

Note: Official Rules are thus used by courts of law when no agreement has been made on some other rule by buyer and seller.

William Warren Barton
USDA - FS - NA
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